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U.S. LISTS MANIFEST: OF SOVIET VESSEL

Ship's Cargo Is Said to Include Two Military Helicopters for the Nicaraguans

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5 — The White House today made public what it said was part of a cargo manifest for a Soviet freighter being unloaded in Nicaragua that listed two military helicopters and spare parts for an air transport.

A White House spokesman declined to say where the document had been obtained or how it had been authenticated. But other Administration officials said they were certain the document was real.

President Reagan said in a news conference last week that the freighter, the Aleksandr Ulyanov, was bound for Nicaragua with a cargo of helicopters and other military equipment. Both Soviet and Nicaraguan officials have denied that, saying the ship carried medicine and equipment for farming and road construction.

The ship was queried and followed for two hours by a Navy destroyer last Saturday while approaching the Pacific port of Corinto. The freighter was unloaded there today, according to a dispatch by Reuters from Managua, the Nicaraguan capital.

Reporters Kept From Docks

The agency quoted Nicaragua's national port authority director, César del Gadillo, as saying reports that the Soviet freighter was carrying arms were false. The Nicaraguan Government prevented reporters from going to the docks, asserting that it saw no need to prove the contents of the cargo, the dispatch said.

The Foreign Minister of Nicaragua, the Rev. Miguel d'Escoto Brockman, was quoted by United Press International from Managua as refusing to deny that the Soviet Union had been shipping arms to Nicaragua. He said:

"There is a war being waged against our country. We are trying to obtain as much as we possibly can to exercise our legitimate right of defense."

Whether he referred to United States warships off the coast of Nicaragua or anti-Sandinista rebels said to be backed by covert aid from the United States was not clear.

The photocopied document supplied by the White House was a printed form in Russian and English with typewritten entries of cargo listed in English and Spanish. It listed, in Spanish, two MI-8 helicopters intended for the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry.

Spare Parts Listed

The manifest also listed, in English, spare parts for AN-26 aircraft, which officials said earlier was a type of cargo plane that has been furnished by the Soviet Union to Nicaragua. Other cargo appeared to be pneumatic jacks, hammers and supplies for the Institute of Agrarian Reform.

Officials said the two pages came from a manifest, believed to be 100 pages long, that included other cargo, like jeeps and construction machinery.

Officials suggested privately that the manifest had been obtained when the Soviet freighter passed through the Panama Canal, saying that filing such documents would have been routine. While the United States has relinquished the Panama Canal Zone to Panama, Americans still operate the canal itself.

Officials also said Mr. Reagan knew last week about the cargo aboard the freighter because United States intelligence had intercepted an uncoded message from the Soviet Union saying the ship was out of Leningrad and bound for Corinto with helicopters aboard.

When the captain of the freighter was hailed by the United States destroyer Lynde McCormick and asked to name his cargo, he replied that it was general merchandise, according to Defense Department officials.

In other developments, Administration officials indicated that the aircraft carrier Ranger and her seven escorts would leave the Pacific coast of Nicaragua Saturday and head for the western Pacific.

They also said the aircraft carrier Coral Sea, accompanied by four or five warships, had left the naval base at Rota, Spain, and was headed for the Caribbean. In the central Pacific, the battleship New Jersey and other ships were said to be heading toward Hawaii and then Central America as part of the rotating naval force scheduled to be there through August.